

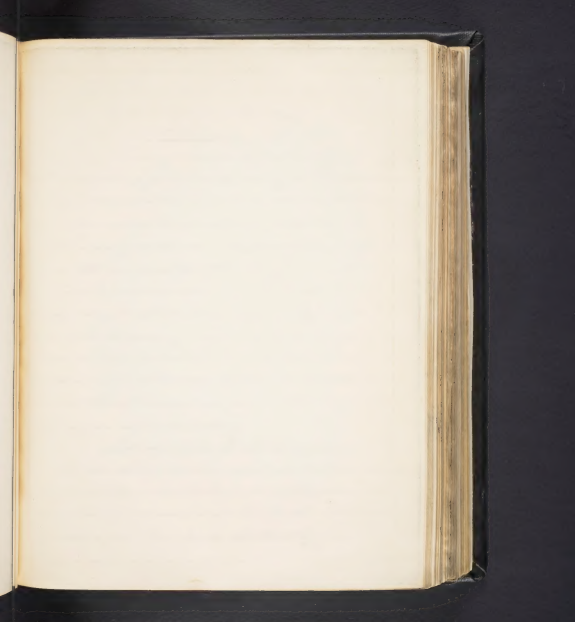
*Given March 5
1828*

AN
INAUGURAL ESSAY
ON
COLIC :

FOR THE DEGREE
OF
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE
IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BY
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OF
PENNSYLVANIA. &c.







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The Sanguine Colic
Colic

Having had an opportunity during the preceding summer of seeing in the practice of my profession several cases of Sanguine Colic, some instances to which my attention was particularly directed to the disease, and have recorded it as the subject of this essay.

The nature and treatment of Colic have been so often and accurately described, that the following pages must be considered more in the light of a compilation from different authors, and from the lectures and instructions I have received on the subject, than of an original essay.

Description of the Disease

The term Colic has been applied to that disease in which there is violent pain in the stomach and bowels, not constant, but with intervals of ease, a peculiar kind of twisting sound



the irritable spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the abdomen, obstinate constipation, excessive irritability of stomach, and vomiting, sometimes so great that the natural peristaltic action of the intestines is inverted, and their feculent contents discharged by the mouth, and there is generally more or less fever, thirst, bitter taste, and difficulty of breathing. If these symptoms are not promptly and efficiently met in the commencement, inflammation supervenes, and all are greatly aggravated.

Remote Causes. That may be mentioned as a remote cause of this disease, it acts by weakening the tone of the alimentary canal, thereby predisposing it to irregular and spasmodic action, and rendering it more liable to be affected by certain irritants, which, under ordinary circumstances would be innoxious. From the same cause, we see Dyspepsia, Diarrhoea, Cholera Morbus &c. are the prevalent diseases of the Summer season. Certain poisonous substances at least, also give rise to the disease.

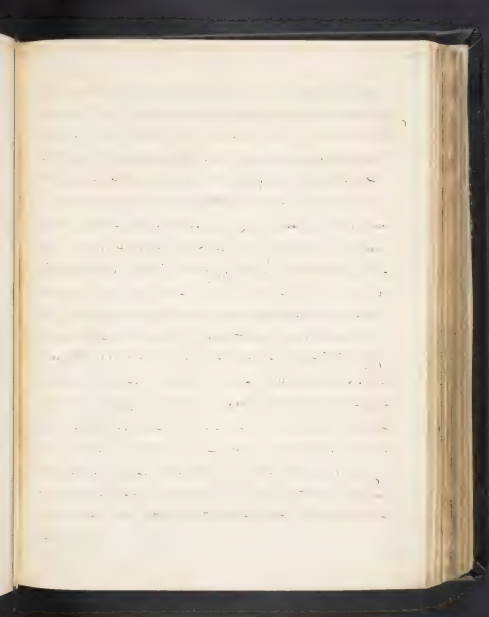


The Secondary Causes are various, as changes of diet
 flatulent vegetables, acids, indigestible substances,
 cold, which acts by suddenly checking the perspiration
 and the circulation, or by exposure to cold draft
 air violent passions or affections of the mind,
 disordered capacity of the prime via, &c. From various
 structure of the vessels we have indicated, fever
 translated from one inflammation to another.

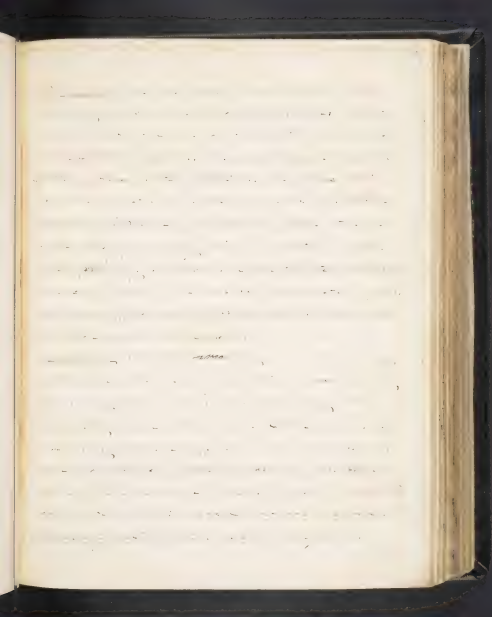
Diagnosis. It is not extremely easy to distinguish
 this from other diseases of the alimentary canal,
 by the spasmodic contractions of the muscles of
 the abdomen, the severe pain peculiarly distressing
 intermittent pain in the stomach and bowels, the
 constipation, and in the commencement the slight
 degree of fever and diminution of pain upon
 purgatives. It is however a safe presumption in all
 cases, where the constipation continues obstinate
 to suspect bilious and in some particular cases
 this point, and should say doubt exist, insist
 upon an examination.

Prognosis. In forming an opinion, as to the probable



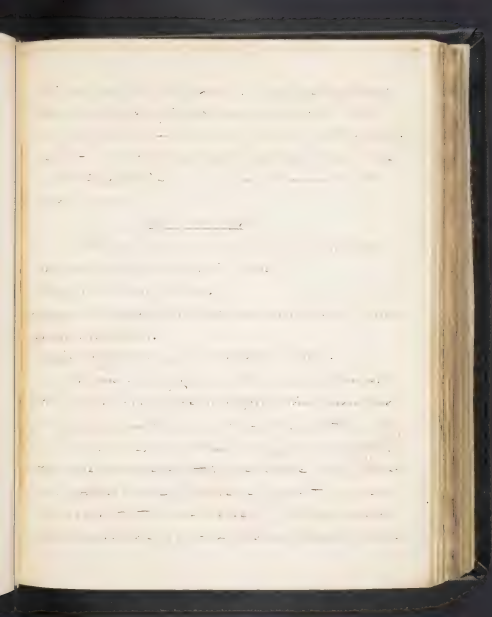




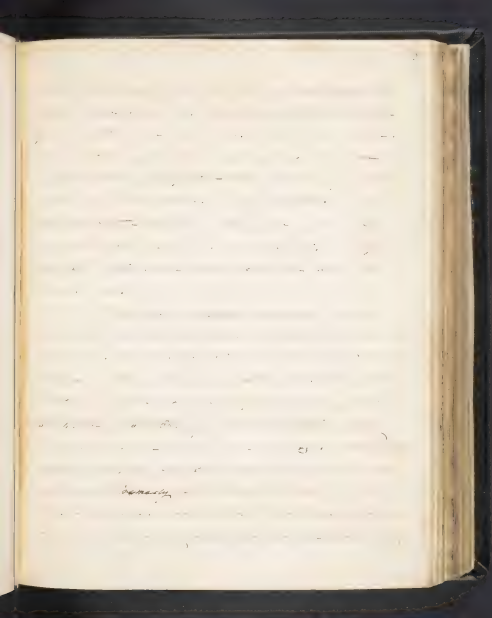






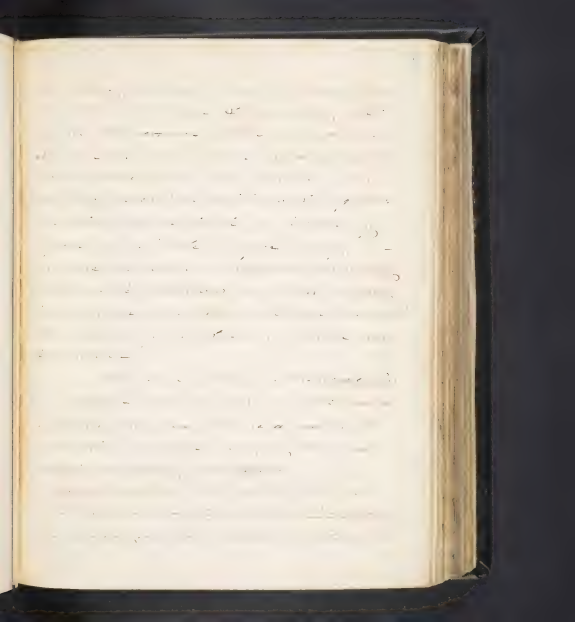




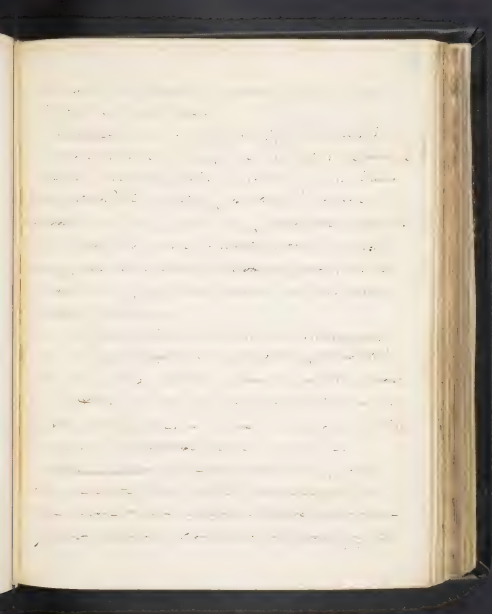








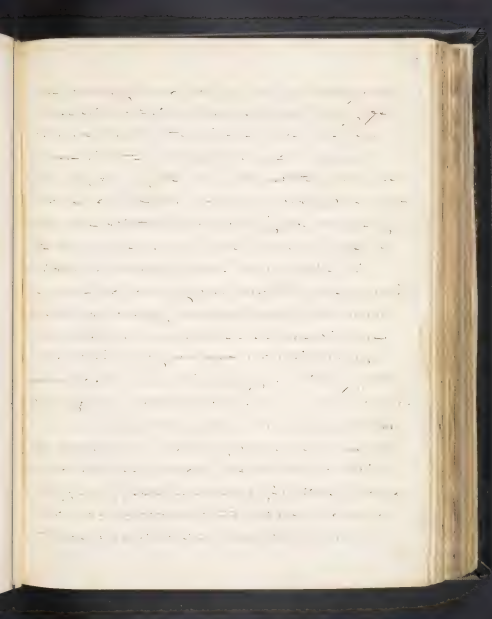




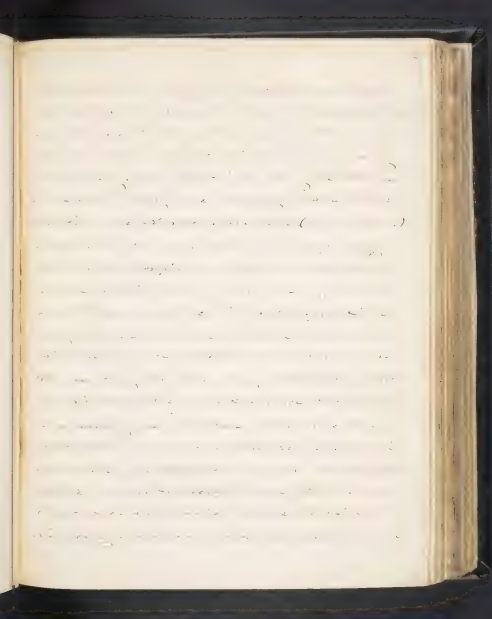


The first thing I noticed when I stepped
out of the car was the cool breeze
against my face. It felt like a warm blanket
after a long, hot day. The sun was still
high in the sky, but the light was softer,
more golden. I took a deep breath, inhaling
the scent of fresh air and distant flowers.
The world around me seemed to be holding
its breath, waiting for me to take the next
step. I walked slowly, savoring every moment,
feeling the ground beneath my feet. The
silence was not empty; it was full of
possibilities. I knew that whatever came
next, it would be worth it. I was ready.
The journey had begun, and I was
exactly where I needed to be.

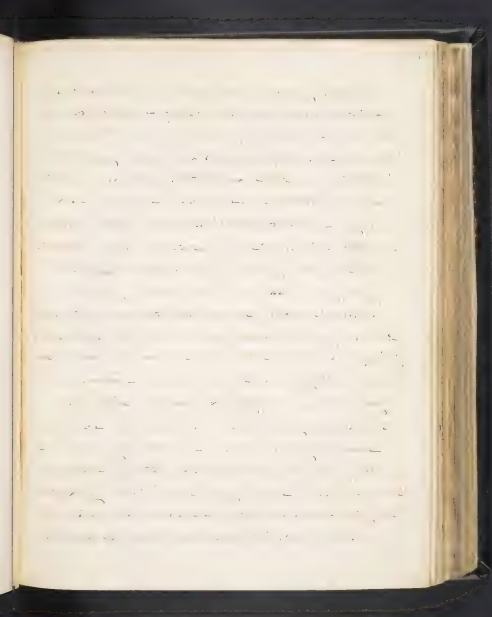














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occasionally proved more severe, than was usual, but
it is no case of one of the temporary increases.

From the great liability to a return of this
disease, we should impress upon our patients
the importance of avoiding all exciting causes,
of abstaining from all articles of diet, which have
ever produced the disease, and of guarding against
any change of temperature by wearing flannel
next the skin throughout the year.





